



For Release: Friday, July 14, 2017

17-984-SAN

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Consumer Price Index, Honolulu – First Half 2017

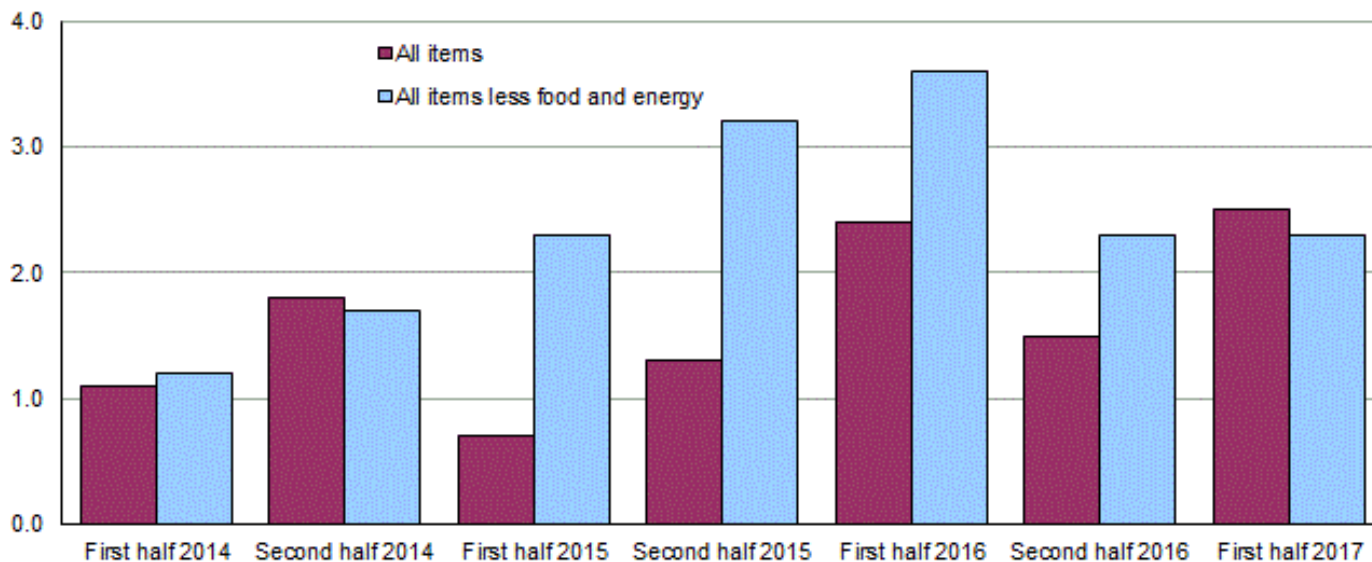
Area prices were up 1.6 percent over the past six months, up 2.5 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Honolulu Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 1.6 percent in the first half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices jumped 15.4 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Honolulu, first half 2014–first half 2017

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.2 percent in the first half of 2017. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home prices home advanced 1.9 percent, and prices for food away from home increased 0.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 0.9 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 1.0 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 7.1 percent since the second half of 2016. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (8.3 percent). Prices for electricity rose 6.4 percent, and prices for natural gas service advanced 5.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 15.4 percent over the year, influenced by higher prices for gasoline (20.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 11.8 percent, and prices for natural gas service moved up 8.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent in the latest six-month period. Higher prices for apparel (3.9 percent) and shelter (2.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-3.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (5.8 percent) and shelter (4.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in education and communication (-3.6 percent).

Table A. Honolulu CPI-U semi-annual and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	1.3	2.8	1.2	1.8	0.5	1.1	-0.5	0.7	0.6	2.4	1.6	2.5
Second Half	0.7	2.0	0.6	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.5		

The Second Half 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Honolulu is scheduled to be released mid-January 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index will change to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in January, 2018. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Honolulu metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Oahu County in the State of Hawaii.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Honolulu, HI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
Expenditure category					
All items.....	264.038	266.528	270.738	2.5	1.6
All items (1967=100).....	726.889	733.744	745.335	-	-
Food and beverages.....	272.390	271.712	275.042	1.0	1.2
Food.....	273.433	272.564	275.787	0.9	1.2
Food at home.....	268.709	266.448	271.384	1.0	1.9
Food away from home.....	272.725	273.281	274.707	0.7	0.5
Alcoholic beverages.....	252.571	255.752	261.220	3.4	2.1
Housing.....	281.079	286.052	292.629	4.1	2.3
Shelter.....	306.182	312.050	319.154	4.2	2.3
Rent of primary residence.....	301.642	305.525	311.278	3.2	1.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	317.964	323.762	331.757	4.3	2.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1).....	317.964	323.762	331.757	4.3	2.5
Fuels and utilities.....	313.815	322.866	334.583	6.6	3.6
Household energy.....	237.410	249.006	264.000	11.2	6.0
Energy services.....	232.672	244.282	259.724	11.6	6.3
Electricity.....	230.402	242.151	257.634	11.8	6.4
Utility (piped) gas service.....	231.854	239.650	252.148	8.8	5.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	149.881	147.588	148.676	-0.8	0.7
Apparel.....	110.769	112.703	117.145	5.8	3.9
Transportation.....	210.717	212.573	216.836	2.9	2.0
Private transportation.....	202.217	204.688	211.293	4.5	3.2
Motor fuel.....	187.757	208.672	226.015	20.4	8.3
Gasoline (all types).....	192.577	214.041	231.836	20.4	8.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(2).....	201.570	224.402	242.707	20.4	8.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(2)(3).....	156.507	171.959	188.020	20.1	9.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(2).....	174.319	192.393	209.728	20.3	9.0
Medical care.....	399.192	401.624	405.254	1.5	0.9
Recreation(4).....	124.456	125.288	125.662	1.0	0.3
Education and communication(4).....	150.105	149.465	144.769	-3.6	-3.1
Other goods and services.....	483.778	485.863	489.868	1.3	0.8
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	264.038	266.528	270.738	2.5	1.6
Commodities.....	196.818	197.708	201.434	2.3	1.9
Commodities less food & beverages.....	150.579	152.497	156.532	4.0	2.6
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	182.894	187.833	194.327	6.3	3.5
Durables.....	114.801	113.241	114.473	-0.3	1.1
Services.....	322.420	326.461	330.994	2.7	1.4
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	256.756	259.247	263.484	2.6	1.6
All items less shelter.....	245.813	246.799	249.726	1.6	1.2
Commodities less food.....	154.436	156.403	160.502	3.9	2.6
Nondurables.....	229.453	231.292	235.999	2.9	2.0
Nondurables less food.....	187.200	192.057	198.512	6.0	3.4
Services less rent of shelter(1).....	343.120	344.221	344.566	0.4	0.1
Services less medical care services.....	314.247	318.617	323.417	2.9	1.5
Energy.....	209.132	225.380	241.406	15.4	7.1
All items less energy.....	269.023	270.761	274.341	2.0	1.3
All items less food and energy.....	269.809	272.237	275.934	2.3	1.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes(1) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.
(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- Data not available.